

A collection of Anthicidae (Coleoptera) from the Umlalazi Nature Reserve

by

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SYNOPSIS

Anthicus armatipes sp. n. is described and illustrated. Short notes are given on other species.

INTRODUCTION

Four hundred and eighty-six specimens of Anthicidae were collected by Dr R. M. Miller, Department of Entomology, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, in the Umlalazi Nature Reserve, 1,5 km east of Mtunzini (2831DD), on 23 and 24 May 1981, in coastal indigenous forest. Localities are given according to the Degree Reference System (Leistner & Morris 1976).

The collection consists of the following species:

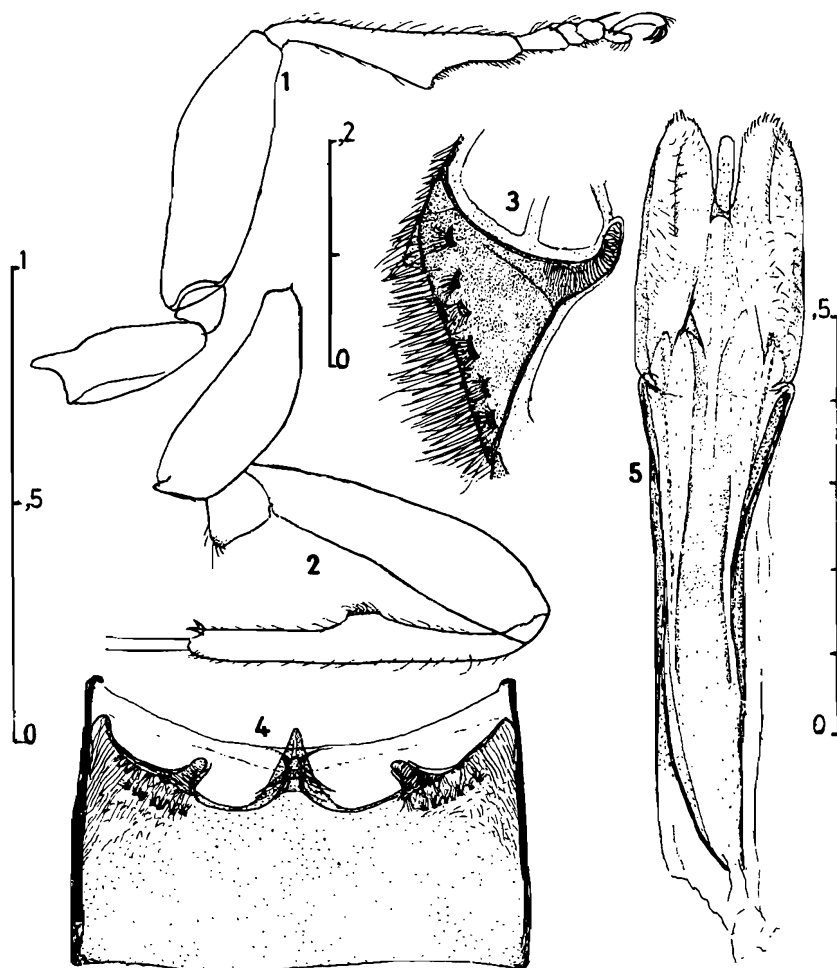
<i>Anthicus armatipes</i> sp. n.	13 specimens
<i>Anthicus (Aulacoderus) perlucidus</i> Van Hille	387 specimens
<i>Anthicus (Aulacoderus) sibayensis</i> Van Hille	2 specimens
<i>Notoxus cucullatus</i> La Ferté	63 specimens
<i>Notoxus ornatus</i> Van Hille	21 specimens

Males of the subgenus *Aulacoderus* and of the genus *Notoxus* are attracted to cantharidin which occurs in beetles of the family Meloidae. Dead meloid beetles were used as bait in making this collection; as a result the collected specimens of *Aulacoderus* and *Notoxus* are all male. Species of *Anthicus sensu stricto* are not particularly attracted to cantharidin, but as many are scavengers, they may be found on or near dead beetles. In the case of *A. armatipes* sp. n. both sexes are present in the collection.

Anthicus armatipes sp. n. Figs 1–5

Size: Length 3,08 mm (2,68–3,36); width over broadest part of elytra 1,02 mm (0,88–1,20).

Head: Glossy, dark testaceous to black; posterior margin, seen from above, straightly transverse, but slightly indented medially, laterally with rounded corners toward eyes. Punctures very fine with fine procumbent hairs and several longer erect hairs. Eyes darkly margined and bulging.



Figs 1-5. *Anthicus armatipes* sp. n. 1. Anterior leg of male. 2. Posterior leg of male. 3. Mesepimeron with apophysis. 4. First abdominal sternum with apophyses. 5. Aedeagus. 1, 2 and 4 at same magnification; 3 and 5 as indicated. Scales in mm.

Prothorax: Glossy, testaceous; slightly longer than broad, as broad as head; shoulders sloping, angular and with another pair of lateral angles shortly behind shoulders, then narrowing to posterior margin which has a fine parallel basal groove. Punctures very fine with fine recumbent hairs; an erect hair on each lateral angle and some more erect hairs on dorsal surface.

Elytra: Somewhat glossy, testaceous with 3 dark transverse bands: 1st on shoulder area, 2nd in middle extending further backward than forward, 3rd covering apex of elytra; intensity of pigmentation somewhat variable: middle band may be interrupted medially so that anterior and posterior light areas become continuous in median line. Punctures coarse, on dark bands individually surrounded by roundish darker area, especially on middle band. Hairs recumbent, more than

twice as long as on prothorax; with several longer erect hairs, especially on lateral margins.

Wings: Fully developed in both sexes.

Antennae: Testaceous, basal half somewhat lighter than apical half. First and last segments longest; 5 apical segments gradually broader.

Legs: Testaceous. Anterior legs of male (Fig. 1) with pointed hook on tibia with 3 small blunt apical papillae and short hairs. Posterior legs (Fig. 2) have pointed patella with 4 small blunt papillae and a few hairs; tibia with flattened hook equipped with a row of about 7 small blunt papillae and short hairs. Females lack these structures.

Undersurface: Testaceous. Mesepimera have each a dorsal and forward pointing apophysis (Fig. 3) with fine spiral markings. Parallel to external margin of mesepimeron is a row of about 6 dark papillae, each with apical group of diverging hairs. First abdominal sternum (Fig. 4) with pair of similar forward and inward pointing apophyses with fine spiral markings; behind the base of these apophyses a row of about 7 small dark pustules with apical tuft of diverging short hairs. Anterior margin of this sternum has sharp median point fitting into posterior margin of metasternum.

Male abdomen: Aedeagus (Fig. 5) little sclerotised, especially median lobe; apical part of tegmen bilobed, shorter than basal part and with fine short hairs. Last exposed sternum trapezoidal.

Holotype in Albany Museum, Grahamstown. Paratypes in Albany Museum and Natal Museum (NM-2558), Pietermaritzburg.

The most prominent feature of this species is the tibial armature of anterior and posterior legs in the male. As far as I know the male of only one other species of *Anthicus*, *A. dentatipes* Pic (1895), has a hook on the tibia of the posterior leg, but not on the anterior leg. The description only mentions 'South Africa' as locality; it has been collected near the mouth of the eastern Kleinemonde River (3326DB), April 1947, J. C. van Hille. It is not closely related to *A. armatipes*; there are no apophyses on mesepimera nor on first abdominal sternum; the aedeagus is well sclerotised and the tegmen ends in a single sharp point.

Anthicus (Aulacoderus) perlucidus Van Hille, 1971

Described from the surroundings of Lake Sibaya (2732BC) and Lake Kosi (2632DD), January 1967, J. C. van Hille; June/July 1967 and January 1968, M. W. Mansell. It occurs here in much larger numbers in winter than in summer. Also recorded from various coastal places from Port Elizabeth to Inhaca Island, Mozambique. Holotype and paratypes in Albany Museum, Grahamstown.

Anthicus (Aulacoderus) sibayensis Van Hille, 1971

Described from the surroundings of Lake Sibaya (2732BC), January 1967, J. C. van Hille; January 1968, M. W. Mansell. It was not collected in winter and not round Lake Kosi. Only other known locality is Ifafa beach (3030BC), December 1947, E. T. M. Reid. Holotype and paratypes in Albany Museum, Grahamstown.

Notoxus cucullatus La Ferté, 1848

Described from Port Natal and the Cape of Good Hope. The most common and the most widely spread of the South African species of *Notoxus*. It has been recorded from the four provinces of South Africa and from South West Africa. Surprisingly it was not collected in the surroundings of lakes Sibaya and Kosi. Male genitalia illustrated by Van Hille (1961).

Notoxus ornatus Van Hille, 1971

Described from Lake Sibaya (2732BC), January 1967, J. C. van Hille, and June/July 1967 and January 1969, M. W. Mansell. Also recorded from Mtunzini (2831DD), February 1953, A. L. Capener and from Durban (2913CC), no date, P. Reineck (*sic*) in the collection of the Natural History Museum, Vienna. Holotype and paratypes in Albany Museum, Grahamstown.

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